**Rotary Club of Cadillac**

**STRIVE Program**

June 2022

**What is STRIVE?**The Cadillac Rotary Club started our STRIVE Program in 1995. The purpose of the program is to motivate students to improve their school performance during their senior year. The program is student driven, fun and interactive.

**Who is Eligible?**
The High School identifies students invited to participate. They are typically in the lower one-third of their class based on grades, although flexibility is given to the school when choosing students. Letters are sent to the students outlining the purpose of STRIVE. An orientation is conducted for students and their parents. Students must sign a commitment form to participate. Once enrolled, students are encouraged to improve their Attendance, Attitude, GPA and Participation.

**STRIVE Meetings**

Meetings with the school counselor are held monthly during which STRIVE goals are reaffirmed: being on time for classes, working a little bit harder on assignments, demonstrating a positive attitude, and participating in school and community activities. Topics for each meeting are chosen by STRIVE students and include: interviewing, resume writing, goal setting, owning a small business, employment expectations, manufacturing jobs, and getting into college when grades aren't so good. Several field trips are included to nonprofit organizations, as well as an end-of-year field trip to Grand Rapids.

**STRIVE Scholarships**
The Cadillac Rotary Club awards scholarships to three students annually who demonstrate the most improvement during their senior year. The review criteria are based on improvement in the four focal points of the STRIVE Program: Attendance, Attitude, Participation and GPA. Scholarships of $750, $500, and $250 are awarded at an end-of-year banquet with parents invited.

**Stride for STRIVE**
A professionally organized 5K run, walk or rollerblade event in Cadillac to raise money for the STRIVE Scholarship program. The event, which takes place on Memorial Day, draws over 700 participants and co-hosts the 2nd largest "Girls on the Run" event in the nation.

**STRIVE Program Impact**

"I have kids that were in the program come up to me all the time and tell me how the STRIVE program changed their lives," Chris Huckle, Rotarian STRIVE Volunteer. "I talked to one of our former STRIVE kids... She told me she thinks about the STRIVE principles every day."

**Questions?** Contact Michelle Morse, STRIVE chair, Email: mmorse1987@yahoo.com